IN THE CLAIMS

1-11. (Canceled)

12. (Withdrawn) A roller element which is arranged to be mounted in a media-advancing device with its axis extending transversely of the direction of media advance such that the roller element engages a media along the direction of said axis, wherein the roller element comprises one or more rows of balls mounted for rotation in a holder.

13. (Withdrawn) A roller element according to claim 12, comprising two parallel rows of balls.

14. (Withdrawn) A roller element according to claim 12, wherein the balls are mounted in the holder with a degree of play along the length of the rows.

15 and 16. (Canceled)

17. (New) A roller element which is arranged to be rotatably mounted in a media-advancing device with its axis extending transversely of the direction of media advance, the surface of the roller element having at least one raised portion and at least one adjacent non-raised portion, said raised portion being shaped such that, as the media advances and the roller element rotates, said raised portion engages the media along a line of engagement which moves continuously in the direction of said axis throughout at least a substantial part of each rotation of the roller element, wherein said raised portion forms a closed loop around the circumference of the roller element.

18. (New) A roller element according to claim 17, wherein the area of the or each loop lies within the range 30 to 90% of the total area of the loop and its respective adjacent non-raised portions.

19. (New) A roller element according to claim 17, wherein said line of engagement moves continuously in the direction of said axis throughout at least substantially the whole of each rotation of the roller element.

20. (New) A roller element according to claim 19, wherein said line of engagement of the roller element moves continuously in the direction of said axis throughout successive rotations.

21. (New) A roller element according to claim 17, wherein the or each loop has a substantially uniform dimension in the direction of said axis.

22. (New) A roller element according to claim 17, wherein the edges of the or each loop possess no discontinuities.

23. (New) A roller element according to claim 17, wherein a loop is provided at each end of the roller element, the loops being substantially identical.

24. (New) A roller element according to claim 17, wherein the corresponding parts of the loops are aligned along said axis.

25. (New) A roller element according to claims 17, with a surface which has at least one raised portion substantially in the form of a helix around the roller element.

26. (New) A roller element according to claim 25 which has a helix at each end, the helices having opposed hands.

27. (New) A roller element according to claim 17 which is a pinch roller element.

28. (New) A hardcopy device comprising a roller element according to claim 17 biased against a drive roller member with the media being arranged to advance therebetween.